

astronomy to university students at the Observatory ; and he gave considerable assistance to the late Director, Sir Robert Ball, in connection with his professional publications. Mr. Hartley's great gifts of lucid explanation, combined with his skill in the manipulation of astronomical instruments, made him eminently popular and successful in the weekly Saturday night demonstrations with the Northumberland equatorial. Towards the close of 1915 he decided to put his services at the disposal of his country during the war, the tragic possibilities of which for himself he and his wife fully and fearlessly faced. On 1916 January 4 he accepted a post as naval instructor for the duration of the war, and went to reside at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich. During this time he paid regular week-end visits to Cambridge and helped to carry on the work in the Observatory. In May he was appointed to H.M.S. *Africa* ; and in December of that year was transferred to the ill-fated *Vanguard*, in the disaster to which he met his death during the night of 1917 July 9. Before joining the Navy he had been qualifying himself for military service in the M.A. Training Corps at Cambridge. As a naval instructor he naturally found full scope for his special talents. In a letter of condolence written to the widow, Admiral Sturdee spoke in the highest terms of his excellence as an instructor, and of the conscientious thoroughness of his work in general.

In 1909 Mr. Hartley married Norah Winifred, fifth daughter of Mr. James A. Aldis, of Miasmere, Suffolk, formerly headmaster of Queen Mary's School, Walsall. She survives him, with two daughters. He will long be remembered by his friends and his professional colleagues, both in the Observatory and in the Navy, as a keen and devoted worker, a genial comrade, and a man of singularly unselfish kindness. That a career of such promise should have been so abruptly broken off is one of the tragedies of war.

He was elected a Fellow on 1914 January 9.

[For the above notice the Council are indebted to Mr. H. L. Aldis.]

MAURICE EGERTON LEIGH-HUNT was born on 1871 June 1, matriculated from St. Paul's school, and shortly afterwards went to Mexico on a mining mission. Upon returning to England he became ultimately a member of the London Stock Exchange and a partner in a well-known firm of brokers. A keen observer, he built a movable shed for his principal telescope, and thought no outlay of time or money too great if it facilitated the astronomical studies to which he was devoted.

He died suddenly in his office in the City on 1917 September 15. He had been suffering for some time from a weak heart, but it was not regarded with any seriousness, and his sudden death came as a great shock to the wide circle of friends by whom he was warmly esteemed.

He married Georgina Millicent, daughter of the late Mr. J.

Hanbury-Jepson, of Folkestone, who survives him, and he leaves three children, two girls and a little boy.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society on 1913 April 11.

BURDETT MASON was born in 1853 in New Haven, Connecticut. He began life as a musician and composer, also giving much time to painting. Subsequently he became interested in astronomy, and built an observatory at his residence, Château Larondouette, near Bayonne, the equipment including a good 6-inch telescope, which after his death was purchased by the Institut de France for the Abbazia Observatory, Hendaye.

The year before the war he accepted the position of American Consular Agent for the Basses Pyrénées. He only contemplated a temporary holding of this office, but on the outbreak of war he resolved to continue it for patriotic motives. However, the work proved so arduous and exacting that his health, never robust, broke down under the strain, and he died on 1917 June 17. The funeral oration was pronounced by Vicomte de Wildik, Consul-General for Portugal. The following extract from it shows the high esteem in which Mr. Burdett Mason was held:—

“The grief of our consular body is very sincere; it is due to the high qualities which he showed in his work. His zeal and devotion to the interests which his country entrusted to his care; his kindness and extreme courtesy to all who had business at his consulate; his intimate acquaintance with the spirit and the objects of the consular institution; his tact and prudence, so necessary and valuable in his relations with the local authorities; his desire to help his fellow-consuls, and the liberality with which he responded to their charitable appeals for their respective countries—all these qualities concurred to render him an accomplished consul.”

Mr. Burdett Mason married in 1884. His widow survives him, but his only child died young.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society on 1907 December 13.

JOHN EARLE MAXWELL was born on 1892 June 24, and was the elder son of Mr. John A. Maxwell, solicitor, of 52 Bishopsgate and 84 Dartmouth Road, Brondesbury. He was educated at Haileybury, and on leaving school in 1911 began to study Law. However, after working at the latter for about two years he eventually decided to take up Medicine, and for this purpose entered Guy's Hospital in 1913 January. The outbreak of war found him still at a somewhat early stage in his medical course, and it was at first a little difficult for him to decide as to how he might best serve his country. On the one hand was the urgent call for fighting men, and on the other an alarming shortage of medical men, threatening to become daily more acute. For a time he continued his work at Guy's, hoping that he would soon be in a position to use his hospital training in the Public Service. In the end, however, he decided to serve in a combatant capacity,